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A Cinco de Mayo celebration

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Makeup class

see page 3



Swinging for next season

see page 8

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The Valley Star

VOLUME 57, ISSUE No. 6

MAY 1, 2002

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Marijuana Use High at LAVC

BY BEN JAURON
STAR REPORTER

Campus police recently uprooted two marijuana plants near the football field and say that pot is a constant concern at Valley College.

"We get a lot of calls from certain locations but by the time we get there, they are gone," Sheriff Randy Tuinstra said.

There have been three arrests for marijuana use and possession on campus this year to add to the numerous complaints. The punishment for possession of marijuana depends on prior convictions: first-time offenders are likely to be put on probation and placed in a diversionary program and multiple offenders may serve jail time, according to the Sheriff's department.

Campus deputies recently cited student Max Rodriguez for smoking marijuana in a campus parking lot. Rodriguez noticed two men wearing badges standing outside his car door while he was smoking a joint.

"I knew I was busted so I copped to it," Rodriguez said. The sheriff's found his two bags, the one he was smoking from and his "emergency bag."

Campus security and others say the hub of marijuana use on campus is in Monarch Square horseshoe, in front of the campus center. Two students were recently ticketed for smoking pot in that area after Yasmine Delahoussay, vice

president of student services, smelled the marijuana and called campus police, according to the report. One of the offenders was cited and released, the other, a minor, was to be released

to his parents. When campus police could not reach his parents nor other relatives, he was released to his cousin, the same relative he was caught smoking with.

One student said he has seen "deals go down" on campus and has seen students smoking in Monarch Square. Students are not shy about marijuana use and say there is nothing wrong with

smoking pot. Rodriguez said he wasn't angry that he was cited, only that a non-uniformed man lectured him on responsibility.

"This guy kept preaching to me, telling me that I had to take

care of my responsibilities," said Rodriguez. "Hey, I work 50 to 60 hours a week and go to school full time. I'm 23 years old and I don't need [anybody] telling me how to live my life."

"Marijuana is healthy, you can quote me on that," said Will Tinson, English major. Matthew Flynn didn't disagree with Tinson, but had a different view.

"I've seen people smoking in the quad and everybody talks about it," Flynn said. "Marijuana is not necessarily a

See 'MARIJUANA' on p. 5

Fiesta Broadway



STAR PHOTO/JORGE GALLEGOS

On a day that reached up to 75 degrees, approximately 300,000 people witnessed the 13th annual Fiesta Broadway on Sunday, April 28. Fiesta Broadway was the start for many Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

Valley Students Remember Armenian Genocide

BY BEN JAURON
STAR REPORTER

In 1915, the government of the Ottoman Empire concluded that Armenians within their borders had to be eliminated to create a pan-Turkic state that reached eastward, uniting them with their ethnic kindred in Central Asia. The methods employed by the Turkish government were brutally effective. The process by which the majority of the Armenians were killed went as follows:

Step one, draft all able-bodied Armenian men into the Army, place them into labor battalions and summarily execute them. Step two, have Turkish troops enter every Armenian town and village round up all of the women, children and elderly,



STAR PHOTO/JORGE GALLEGOS

Pippe the clown helped brighten the day for those that attended Fiesta Broadway.

then force them to march into the Syrian desert where they will die from exposure. Between 500,000 and 1.5 million Armenians died from this and other means.

"As if 500,000 makes it any less of a crime," said Ardashes Kassakhian, the director of government relations for the Armenian National

See 'GENOCIDE' on p. 5

Dispelling Myths of Cinco de Mayo

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAR REPORTER

Cinco de Mayo is not about drinking cervesas or eating Mexican food. Cinco de Mayo is not Mexican Independence Day.

"Here in the United States, the Mexican American community remembers Cinco de Mayo as another victory in the history of Mexico," said Pete Lopez, instructor of Chicano studies.

Officially Cinco de Mayo is called the Battle of Puebla, the day when the Mexican Army resisted occupation from French expansionists on May 5, 1862.

Lopez said nowadays people think Cinco de Mayo is the day of independence for Mexico. While it is a day that Mexico won a battle against oppression from France, it is not the official day that it declared independence as a nation.

On Sept. 15, 1810, Mexico declared war against Spain. The fight last until 1821, when Mexico was finally recognized as a free country.

Valley College is hosting its

annual Cinco de Mayo festival today in the free-speech area, and this year the focus is going to be more about educating the public and less about entertainment (although there will still be plenty of live music, dance and food).

This year Latin Jazz, folkloric
See 'CINCODE MAYO' on p. 5



STAR PHOTO/LAUREN RUDSER

Jeannette Stern casts her vote during Valley's annual election, which took place April 17 and 18.

Campaign Violations Taint ASU Election

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAR REPORTER

More than two weeks have past since the first ASU elections and there has been a runoff election, but complaints about violations of campaign rules have prevented the ASU from announcing its new president.

The elections, which took place April 17 and 18, went off with few problems and a large turnout. ASU has announced the election results for three commissioners, the vice president and the treasurer. Elinore Cohen and Samy Kbulchyan participated in a runoff election Thursday for president because neither candidate earned more than 50 percent of the vote. It was during the runoff election, however, that people starting complaining about a violation of campaign rules.

"I just want to see that democracy is being practiced here," said Cohen, who filed a formal complaint to Yasmine Delahoussaye, vice president of student services. "I think that most of the ASU members and

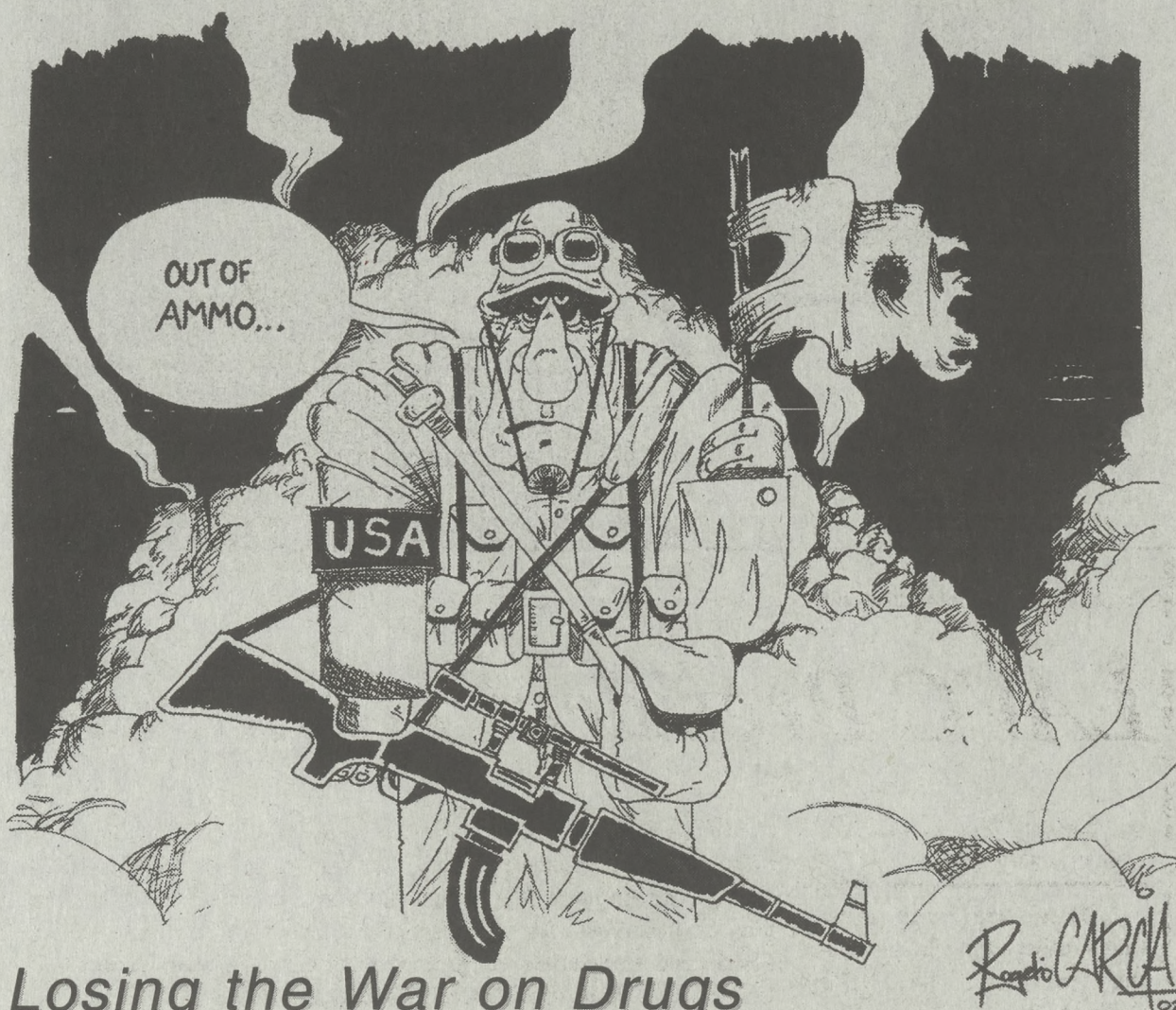
See 'ELECTION' on p. 6

Opinion

2 • MAY 1, 2002

e d i t o r i a l

The War On Drugs is a War on People



Losing the War on Drugs

A Long Way From Equality

BY ROGELIO GARCIA

We all stare at the half-full glass of equality. We all wish it were full, but it is not. The United States continues to promote the image of "the lands of plenty," touting technological progress, economic freedom, and educational opportunity for everyone. The implication is that if you somehow fail to wind up prosperous it's nobody's fault but your own. I recently encountered this reasoning on the last

issue of the Valley Star's opinion section. The commentary, "A Place in the World for Everyone," poses the question, what about the content of my character? The author, Camille Bourque, believes that we have achieved a level of equality where a person's skin, gender, and ethnicity are no longer targets for discrimination. She is wrong.

In her commentary Bourque says that "racial equality is wide awake" and provides us with examples of individuals such as Colin Powell, Clarence Thomas, and Condoleezza Rice. However, there is far more evidence to suggest that the U.S. is far from being considered an equal society.

There are ethnicity and gender-wage gaps. The General Accounting Office compiled data from the Current Population Survey regarding the ten industries that

The "war on drugs" and its prohibitionist, punitive strategies have failed to solve America's drug problem. In fact, they bear much of the blame for drug-related crime, epidemic use of crack cocaine and the spread of AIDS through dirty syringes. Washington must begin developing policies that seek to reduce the harm drugs inflict on the users and society. Officials need only to look at successful innovations in Europe and Australia like needle exchange, addiction treatment and supervised maintenance, as well as decriminalization. Public health rather than politics should be paramount.

The war on drugs is really a war on people, which includes anyone who uses, grows, makes, or sells a forbidden drug. It essentially consists of two elements: the predominant role of criminalization of all things having to do with marijuana, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and other prohibited drugs and the presumption that abstinence is the only permissible relationship with these drugs. It's that combination that ultimately makes this war futile.

What's needed is a new

way of evaluating drug policies by looking at how they reduce crime and suffering. Arresting and punishing citizens who smoke marijuana - the vast majority of illicit drug users - should be one of our lowest priorities. We should focus instead on reducing overdose deaths, curbing new HIV infections through needle-exchange programs, cutting the numbers of

"What's needed is a way of evaluating drug policies by looking at how they reduce crime and suffering."

nonviolent drug offenders behind bars, and wasting less taxpayer money on ineffective criminal policies.

Isn't anyone else getting tired of the same old lines, the same old strategies, and the same old promises? How many more billions of dollars do we want to pour down this sinkhole? How much more corruption can we tolerate? How many more people must die? Who really wants to see U.S. soldiers wandering around Latin

America in search of anyone who might have anything to do with coca or opium or marijuana?

What's needed are new strategies based upon honest and realistic assumptions. Let's start by dropping the "zero tolerance" policies and the illusory goal of drug-free societies. Accept that drug use is here to stay and that we have no choice but to learn to live with drugs so that they cause the least possible harm.

Recognize that many, perhaps most, drug problems in America are the result, not of drug use, but of our prohibitionist policies: the violence, the corruption, the vast underground markets, the diversion of ever increasing resources to criminal justice and military agencies, the environmental harms of crop eradication programs and unregulated illicit crop production, the enrichment and empowerment of organized and unorganized criminals, and so much more. Drug abuse presents serious challenges in all our societies, but our prohibitionist approaches have proven remarkably ineffective, costly and counterproductive.

employ 71 percent of U.S. women workers and 73 percent of U.S. women managers. The pay gap between full-time working female and male managers widened between 1995 and 2000 in seven of the 10 industries examined. Some of the results showed that a full-time working woman currently receives only 73 cents to every

dollar received by a man. Furthermore, the data shows that African-American women are paid only 65 cents for every dollar received by white men while Latina women are paid only 53 cents to the dollar.

If we look at 1963, the year the Equal Pay Act was passed, full-time working women were

paid 59 cents on average to the dollar received by men, while in 2000 women were paid 73 cents for every dollar received by men. For the last 37 years, the wage gap has only narrowed by slightly more than one-third of a penny per year.

CampusView

Would you report someone that was smoking marijuana on campus?

BY SUSIE SPECK MAYOR
STAR REPORTER

"I usually just mind my business."

Linda Oropeza
Nursing



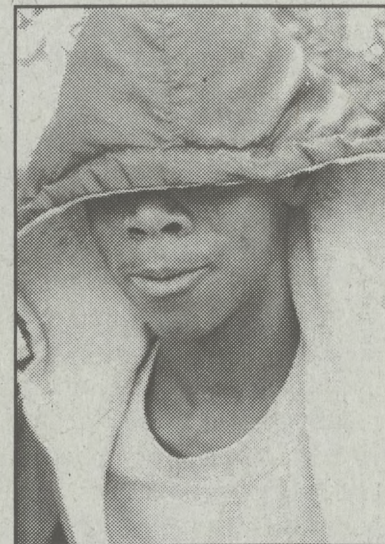
"There's two kinds of people - baseheads and people who aren't baseheads, let them be..."

Alan Ayoub
Communications and Broadcast



"Of course I would."

Lisa Negrete
Child Development



"That's really their own business. I wouldn't snitch because I'm not a tattletale."

Isa Hasan
Broadcasting

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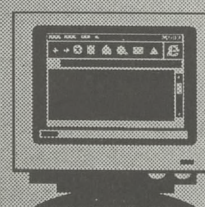
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Valley Life

MAY 1, 2002 • 3

BY SKYLAR LENOX

STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

★ Career/ Transfer Center

The Career Transfer Center is open to all Valley College students wishing to either transfer to a four-year college or change their career. Hours: Mon. and Tue. 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Wed. and Thur. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in administration 126. For more information call (818) 947-2646

★ The Writing Center

Free tutoring for LAVC students. Humanities 100 and 102, for more information call (818) 947-2810.

★ Arabic Music

Joseph Chamaa, Director
Thurs. May 2, 11:30 a.m.
Music Recital Hall

★ Martha Masters, Classical Guitarist*

Sat. May 4, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

★ Museum Association Meeting

Mon. May 6, 3 p.m.
Cafeteria Conference Room

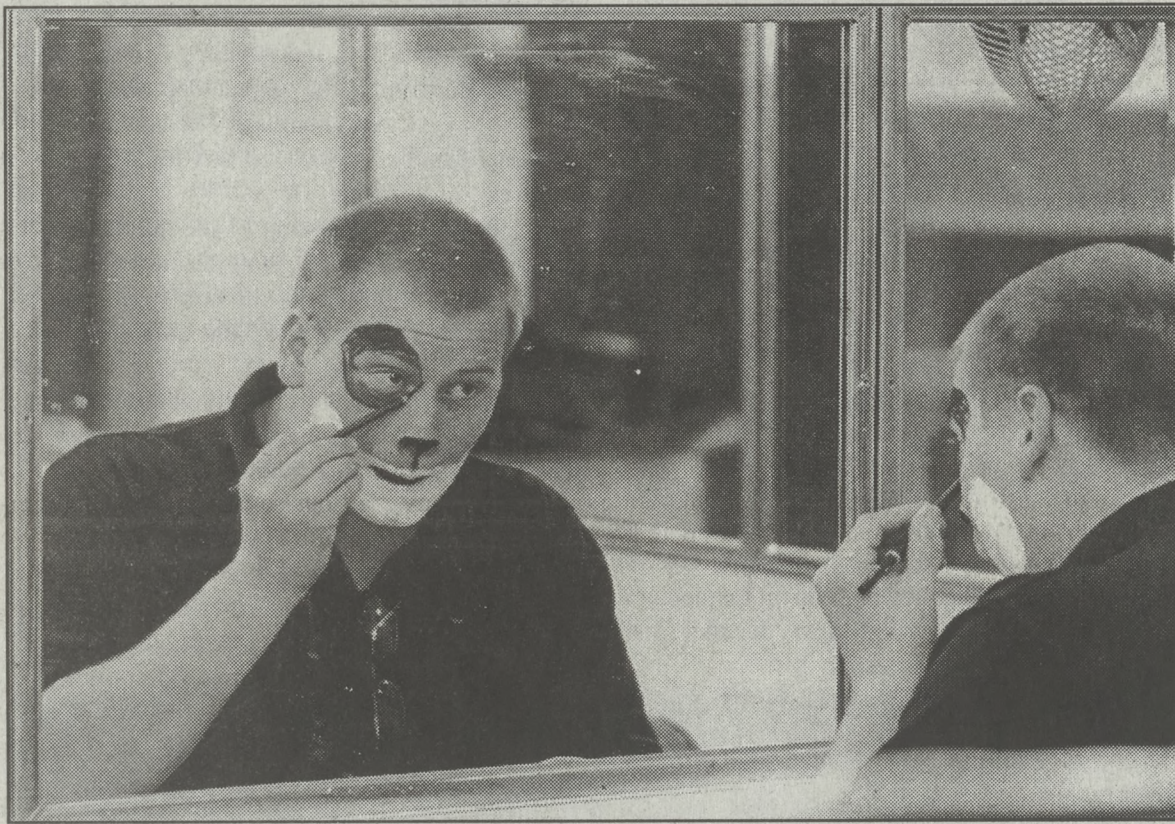
★ Valley Symphony Orchestra, Robert Chauls, Conductor*

Grande Finale: Two Piano Concertos 8th Annual Composition Winner.
Sat. May 11, 8 p.m., Main Stage

★ Transfer Reception

Tue. May 14, 2 p.m.
Monarch Hall
Admission Charge

CAMPUS SCENE



While looking in the mirror, sophomore Brad Wilder is practicing placing make-up on his face. Wilder is part of the beginning stage make-up class.

A Makeup Class That Students Don't Mind

BY MICHELLE FOGEL
STAR REPORTER

You might call it mystery theatre 450, but the students who know about the makeup class offered at Valley College are winning awards and finding careers.

Theatre 450 Beginning Stage Make-up has been offered at Valley College since the 1950s and is taught by Donald Hayes.

"It's not one of those classes that

people don't like coming to," Hayes said. "I hope to continue doing this as long as there's interest in it."

Hayes, who has been teaching at Valley for 32 years, said the makeup class is "a first step in a pretty nice career" and said that one of his former students won an Emmy for doing the makeup for the television show "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

The class teaches students the theatrical approach to makeup and focuses

"It's not one of those classes that people don't like coming to. I hope to continue this as long as there's interest in it."

-Ronald Hayes,
on Valley's Theatre 450 class



STAR PHOTO/ SUSIE SPECK
MAYOR

Remember when you were young; you'd look inside your parent's medicine cabinet for something. Little did you know that all those little vials with the pharmaceutical labels were the key

to youth and happiness. You look at your parents; it doesn't seem so bad. They don't look any worse for the wear. They look like they're supposed to; they're older than you are. By those standards, you look amazing. What dispels this illusion, however, is when you catch your kids staring at you from the opposite side of a room. A strange look on their sweet little faces. You're not quite sure if it's fear or disbelief or simply "what have you done with my real parents?" kind of look."

I try to keep just out of their direct line of vision. Sons, of course, are the worst at blurting out the most innocently nasty comments. They have no idea what havoc they wreak on your already dwindling self-esteem. Yet, you smile, and say something like,

"how cute" or like real parents you dive down deep for the disciplinarian inside and say, "don't you be fresh!"

Or how about the lack of humiliation? Your kid is running late for school. You wear your housecoat and slippers to drive them there. After all, what's the chance that you'll get stopped on the way? Surely any cop in his right mind will need only look at your face, the face of determination, the face that WILL beat the clock, and they know to turn the other cheek and not mess with you. When it really hits you that you need to give more thought or time to your decision of leaving the house this way, you see parking only on the opposite side of the street from the school. Now you actually have to get out of the car and cross with your kid to the entrance. I've made grown men screech to a halt so as not to interfere with the mother mission. It is not pretty! Further proof that the hands of time are clicking away is when bodily noises become public domain.

Earlier in your relationship, there were never any bathroom noises. You didn't leave the door open while tending to your business. We were polite about it. Now, after all these years of marriage and maturity, you either just ignore it completely or you blame the dog. How much more mature can you get?

I guess the part that puts getting older in perspective is all the wisdom you've gained over the years. You've learned tolerance; you can look at your face in the mirror early in the morning and know that a cup of coffee and a little work will make you look good as new. You've learned how to love through all the trials and tribulations your children put you through, and can still find it in your heart to kiss and hug them no matter what. You've learned that, yes, gas will pass but no one will die from it. You've also learned that each day brings a new challenge. The wisdom you hold so dearly is gained moment-by-moment, breath-by-breath, and wrinkle-by-wrinkle.



STAR PHOTO/JORGE GALLEGOS

President Tyree Wieder stands next to an award she received from Sen. Richard Alarcon.

LAVC President Honored

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAR REPORTER

There are many things that students don't know about the president of Valley College. She is seen walking around campus and attending various school functions, but not too much can be said as to how she spends her time outside of school.

But to give some idea, President Tyree Wieder was recently awarded the 2002 Senator Richard Alarcon Community Award, recognizing her efforts in serving the San Fernando Valley.

Wieder is currently on the board of several community organizations. She serves as an advisor, a mentor, and an advocate to education, healthcare and city planning. She is one of the board of directors at

Northridge Hospital and the redistricting committee for the City of Los Angeles. She is on the commission for Laura Chick and she serves on the University of California Board of Regents Selection Advisory Committee. Wieder is involved in making decisions about such matters as who is elected into the governor's office, how the city of Los Angeles distributes the its tax dollars, and she serves on a committee that mentors women who want a career in higher education.

"One of the things that I try to do is get involved in things that include the college," said Wieder on why she devotes her time to these organizations.

Along with her involvement in the community, there are plenty of other things that keep Wieder busy on campus.

A rumor spread around campus the past couple weeks about her plans to leave Valley and take another position as president of City College of Santa Barbara. Wieder strongly denied such rumors and was quite flattered that people took such interest in her life.

"A rumor was started that I applied for a position at City College in Santa Barbara and that I was a finalist in the hiring process," said Wieder. Since then, she had to send the school hundreds of e-mails, which she called her "Denial, Denial" letter.

Wieder said in the letter that she is very committed to staying here and completing the prop A project and that it is a very exciting time in Valley's history.

at Valley rather than become a stage manager.

His class is located in the theatre department with a large makeup sign out front. Hayes said there are semesters when he thinks the class won't fill because most students don't know the class exists.

"You would be surprised at how many questions I get," he said.

on "a little bit of everything," Hayes said.

Students dab into character interpretation: mustaches, animals, clowns and old- and middle age character features. Students are also given the opportunity to participate campus theatrical productions, giving them first-hand experiences.

Hayes, a former Valley College student, said he always knew he wanted to be a teacher and decided to take the job

FIRST PERSON: JACQUI BROWN

A year passes in the blink of an eye, some things remain untouched, and others buckle under the stress of simply moving forward.

Each morning you stumble to the sink to brush your teeth and gaze into the mirror, still a little foggy, and wonder who the stranger is looking back at you. How does one's hair do that in the middle of the night? And by God, how do wrinkles get larger while you're sleeping?

You know you lay there all night, slack mouthed, no squinting, no smiling, yet, these dastardly lines seem to etch further and further into your once smooth face. Who knew getting older would be this much fun?

Remember when you were young; you'd look inside your parent's medicine cabinet for something. Little did you know that all those little vials with the pharmaceutical labels were the key

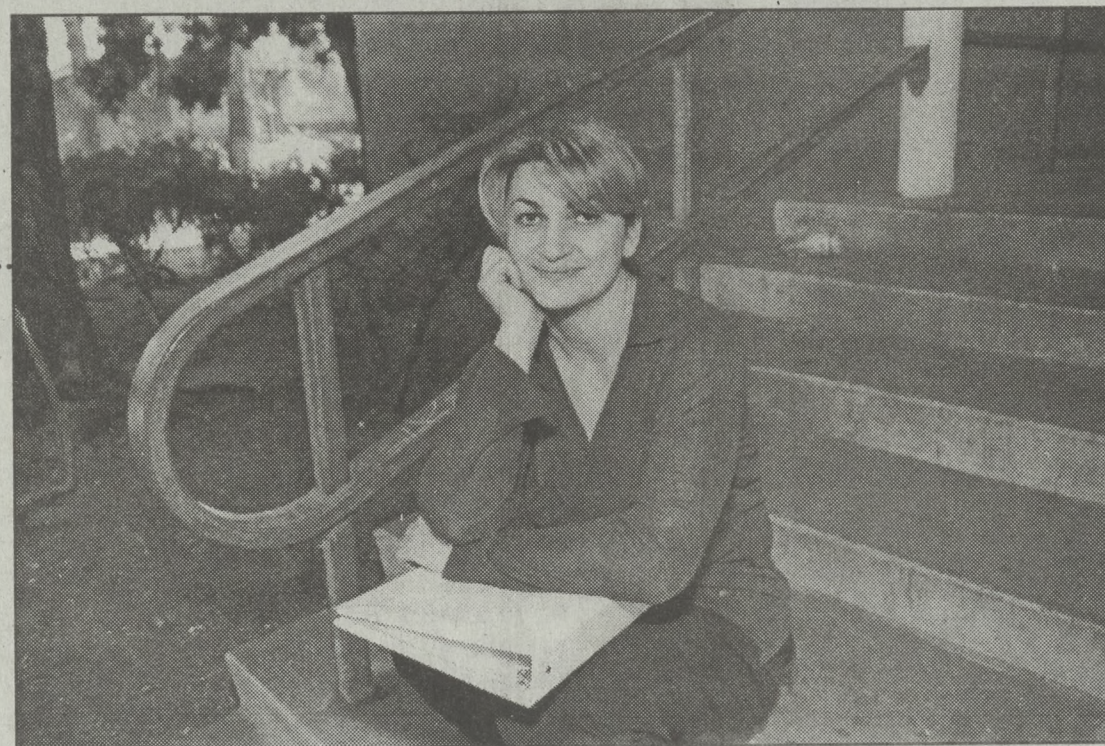
Valley Life

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STAR PHOTO/DANIEL COHEN

Students from Valley College's dance department perform at the District Dance Consortium, which was held on Thursday, April, 18, on the main stage. Five community colleges in Southern California participated and it included both student and faculty choreography. Valley's Spring Dance Concert will be on May 24 and 25.



STAR PHOTO/SUSIE SPECK MAYOR

Larisa Oganessian sits on the steps of the Math/Science building.

Russian Student Finds American Dream at Valley

BY LINDA TOPDJIAN
STAR REPORTER

The power of the media planted a seed in Larisa Oganessian's mind in Moscow, Russia, that there was a better way to live. But there is one thing she misses about her former life. A soft-spoken lady with long flowing blonde hair and gentle brown eyes that sparkle with a sweet smile. This 5-foot-6-inch brave young woman had the American Dream in her heart. The picture of palm trees swaying in the breeze in sunny Southern California would soon become reality.

Born of Armenian heritage, the 38-year-old Valley College student Oganessian and her family of four await the freedom to live the American Dream in a permanent residency in America, after living three decades with Russia's political unrest.

"I appreciate the opportunity and the freedom to live as we choose and be able to educate ourselves and live out our dreams in stability in America," Oganessian said.

Born on June 15, 1963, she and two teenagers, son, Garik, 16, and daughter, Roza, 13, and spouse, Gamlet, look forward to happiness, safety, and freedom to live wherever they choose and do what ever they want in their future. They moved from Russia to Slovakia and got on a waiting list to come to America.

"We had to endure a five-year waiting list because there are thousands of refugees waiting to leave for a new life in America," Oganessian said. With the help of the Immigration Refugee Service, they all were

able to come to America. They received a loan for plane tickets and traveling expenses.

After arriving, they spent one night in New York City, two months in Pennsylvania, and boarded the Greyhound bus for a four-day trek to California.

"It was so interesting to see the differences, passing from one state to another on the Greyhound bus, from the corn fields, to the plains, to the big cities," she said. "It all was very exciting."

They settled in North Hollywood. In the four years they have been here, Oganessian has graduated from a medical college as a medical assistant, which took eight months to finish. She then chose to further her education and major in mathematics at Valley.

"Larisa is very knowledgeable with the subject of math; she always goes out of her way to assist all students who need her tutoring in all levels of math," said math instructor Teresa Sutcliffe. Presently, Oganessian is a math supplementary instructor and her husband works as a stocker at a department store.

Oganessian plans to transfer to Cal State Northridge and earn a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Her aim is to one day teach at a college.

This ambitious, busy young wife and parent has one wish: If it had been a perfect world, she would have enjoyed living out her life in her homeland and be near extended family.

"I miss my dad so much," she said. "It's not enough to just talk on the phone: it has been eight years since I last saw him."

Book Sanctuary to Close Soon

BY ALEX DASH
STAR REPORTER

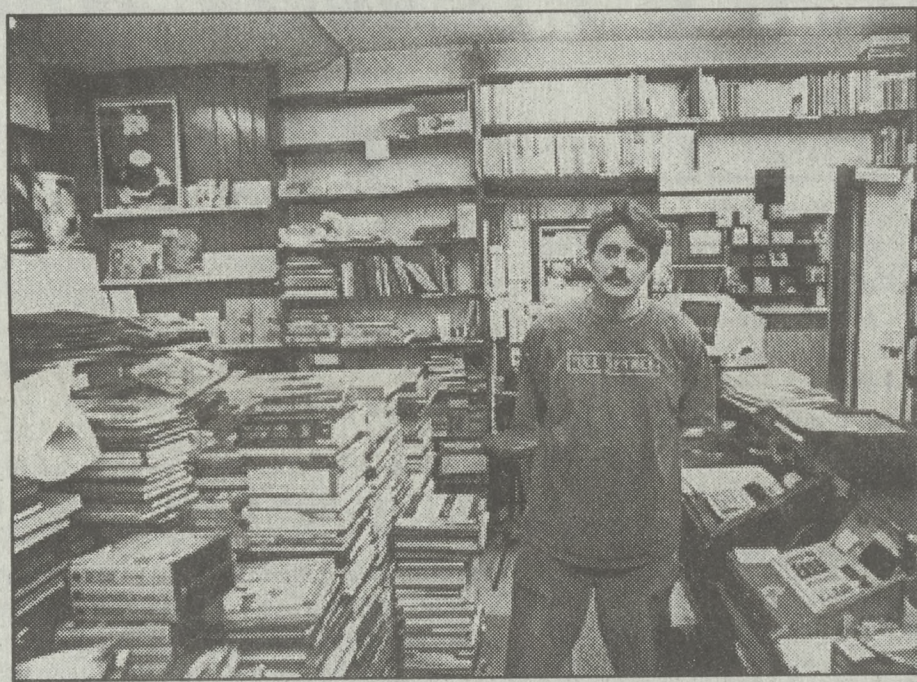
A leisurely stroll along Hollywood Boulevard will have you treading along the names of famous celebrities. If you pass John Ritter's name and reach Jimi Hendrix, you'll be at the door of one of Los Angeles' most venerable book stores, Book City.

Unfortunately, this fine bastion of books is being forced to close its doors due to a redevelopment project approved by the city of Los Angeles.

"They told us in July 2000 we had to move," said Alan Siegel, store director. "Then the date was pushed back to Dec. 15. Well, we're still here."

Siegel said when the store does close, the remaining books will be sent to the Burbank store and the new store in the Galaxy Mall, which is a few blocks away.

Customers will miss the character of the Hollywood Boulevard store. Its layout is not like modern bookstores, with new-wave lights, designer couches and a coffee bar. At Book City, fluorescent tubes beat down on



STAR PHOTO/ALEX DASH

Michael Walsh, a store associate, said many celebrities have come to Book City over the years.

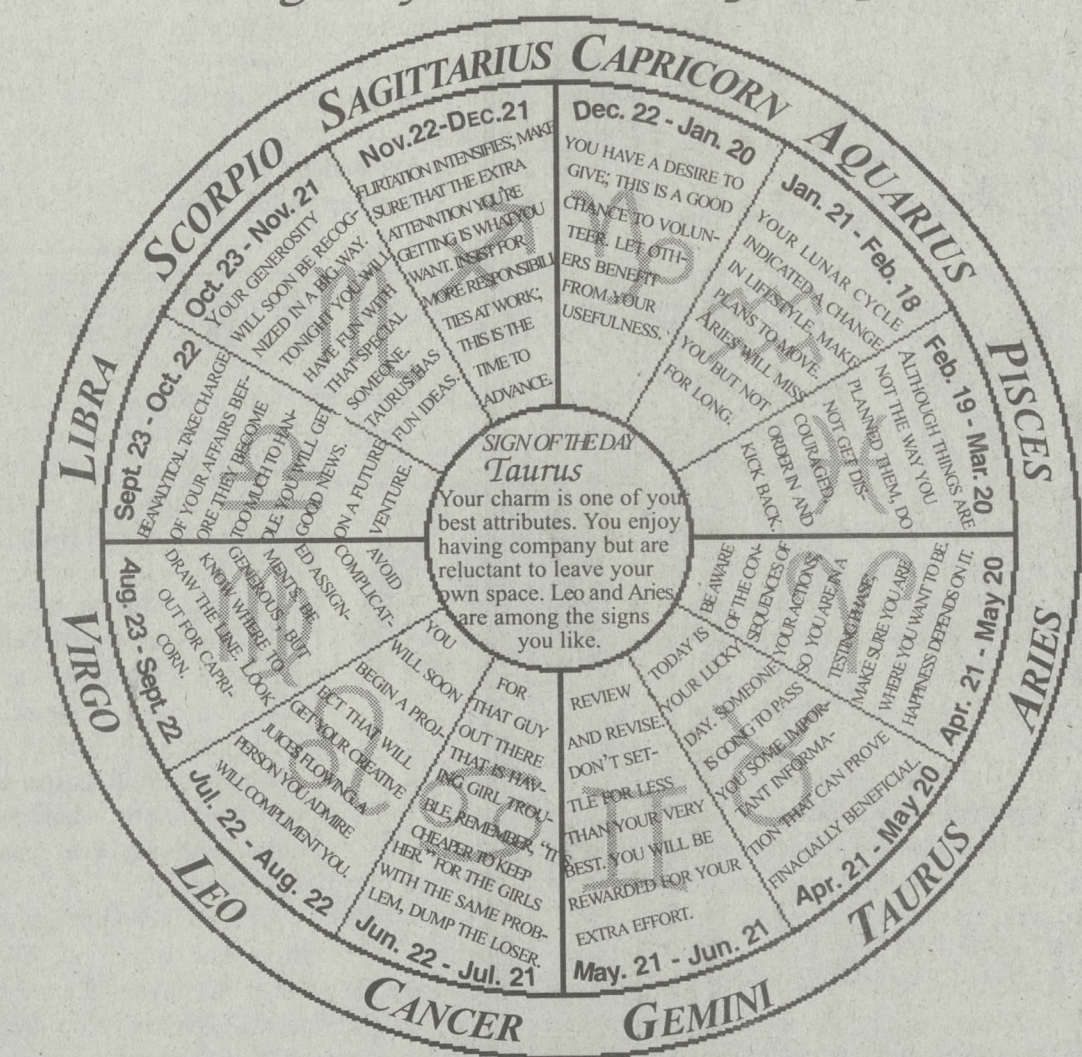
the linoleum floors. With more than 500 subjects, there is no room for roomy couches or apartment-size coffee bars.

The store is divided into several rooms. The main room is home to the front counter with its many waist-high stacks of books. Look to your left and you'll see the entrance to the memorabilia section. There, customers will find thousands of scripts and signed photographs of young and old celebrities. To the

right is the large collection of rare and out-of-print books. The main room leads patrons to the many smaller sections of the bookstore. In these rooms, the ceilings are low enough to touch and the aisles too narrow to stretch your arms. Travel up the creaky wooden stairs and find a panoramic view of the store's main room. Upstairs is where the store displays its old movie posters and

See 'BOOK CITY' on p.6

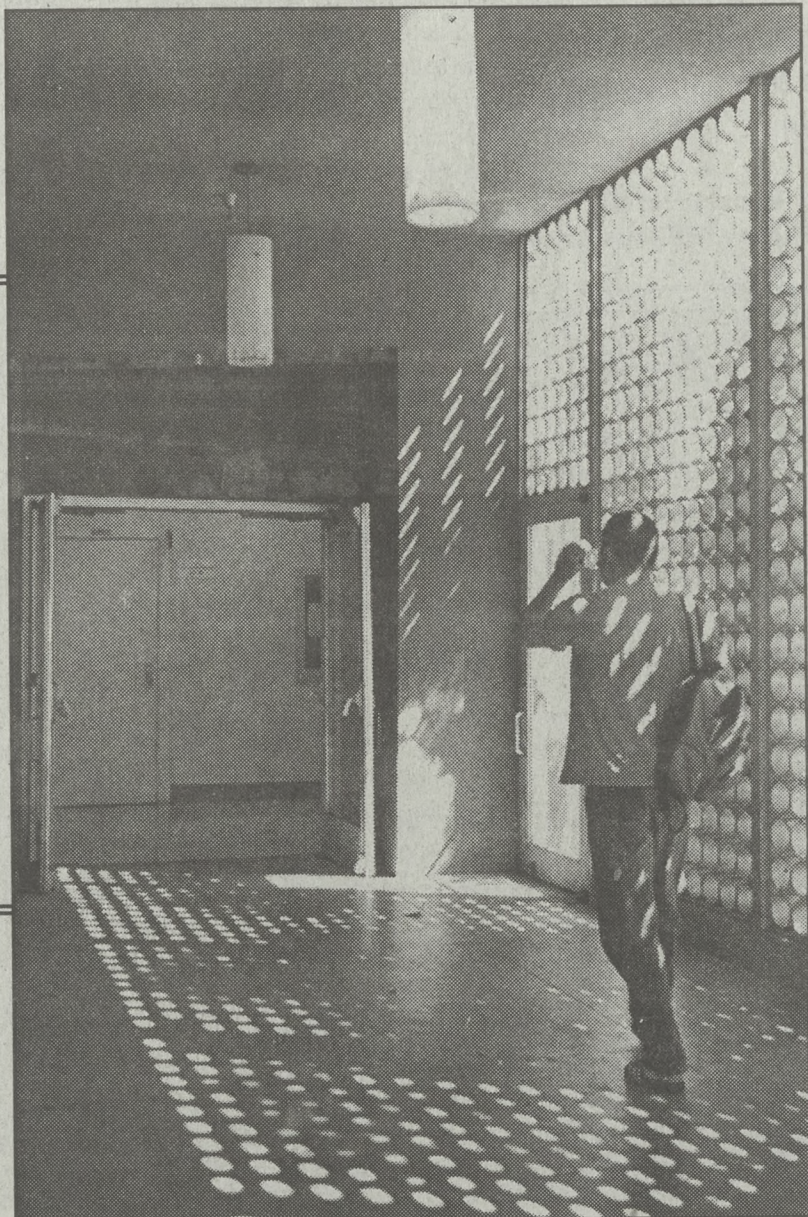
Your astrological forecast told by....Sepuca



The astrological forecast should be read for entertainment purposes only.

Light coming through the sculpted wall of the Art building's entryway creates patterns on the floor and on passersby as well.

STAR PHOTO/SUSIE SPECK MAYOR



'Marijuana' *continued from page 1*

bad thing, but it definitely should be kept off the campus—it's not appropriate."

College Nurse Barbara Perlman said there are health issues surrounding marijuana use. "The health benefit of marijuana is that it's used for the treatment of glaucoma and some cancer patients, but that, of course, is with a doctor's order," she said.

Perlman also referred to several studies stating that smoking marijuana for any prolonged period of time can be addictive

and can lead to heavier drug use.

Marijuana-related emergency room episodes have risen from 15,706 in 1990 to 87,150 in 1999, according to Drug Abuse Warning Network and the number of teenagers using the drug is also on the rise. Perlman said that marijuana use is not good for your mind.

"[Users] may believe, when under the influence, that they're cognitively and physically alert, but they're not," Pearlman said. "When you're addicted, your whole brain slows down."

For people who feel that they are addicted to marijuana or any other substance and need help breaking the habit, Valley offers psychological services at the campus health center.

Roberto Figueroa, security officer, found and removed the two plants near the football field.

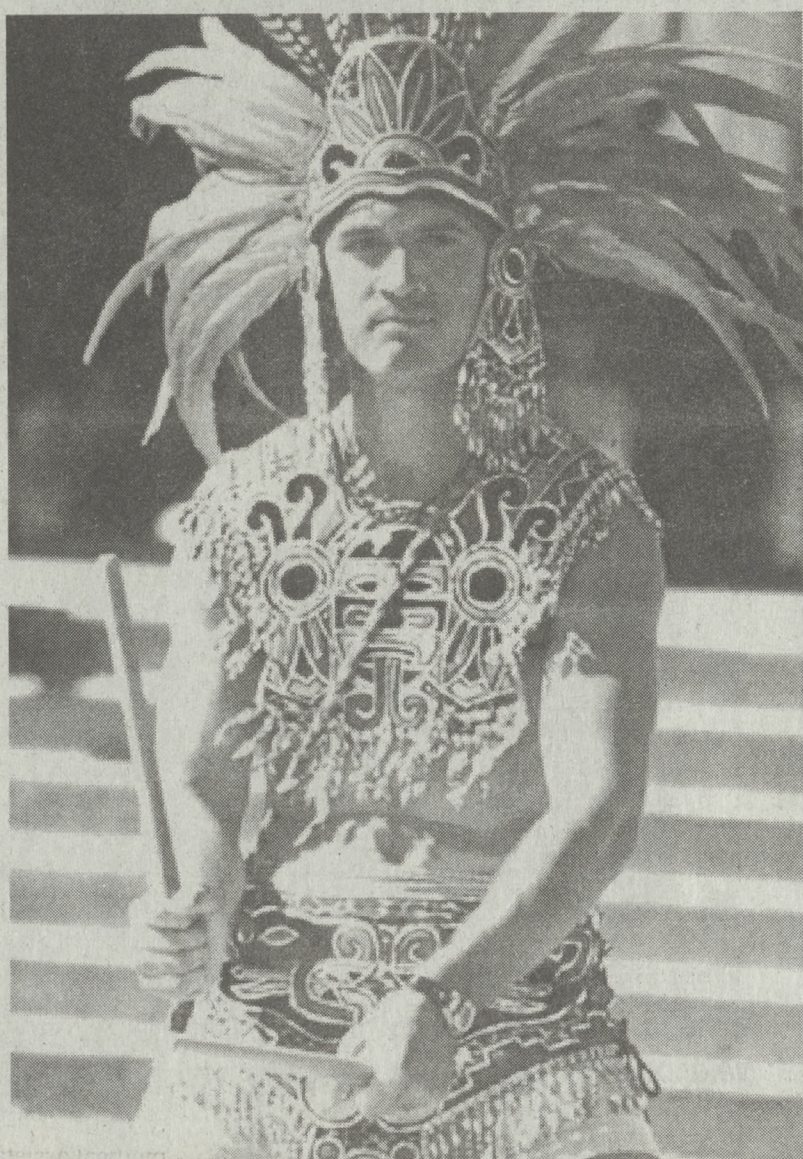
Police received the tip about the plants from an e-mail. Figueroa said the they were 16-18 inches tall and the unknown horticulturist is still at large.

'Cinco de Mayo'

continued from page 1

dancers, and a performance by the Valley College dance club, will be featured along with free food from the ASU. Raul Ruiz, a Chicano studies professor from Cal State Northridge is scheduled to speak and organizers hope that Delores Huerta, farm workers activist, will also speak.

"There's often a misunderstanding about Cinco de Mayo," said Florentino Manzano, associate dean of student services. "People think it's about Coronas or that it's Mexican Independence Day. We want this to educate people and to hopefully set the record straight."



STAR PHOTO/JORGE GALLEGOS
A musician wears a traditional Aztec costume that is part of the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

'Genocide'

continued from page 1

Committee of America's (ANCA) western regional offices.

A memorial presentation was held in Monarch Hall on Tuesday, April 22, featuring films and speakers about the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923 and Kassakhian was the keynote speaker. The Armenian-American's parents were among those who eventually made their way to America. "For Armenians that have come to the US, it is usually the second or third migration," he said. "We're very fortunate to have made the U.S. our home and use the tools of free speech for our efforts."

For the past 87 years, the government of Turkey has denied that the genocide ever occurred, stating that the Christian minority died because of various other reasons, such as

disease. "It was no disease other than the disease of hate and intolerance," said Kassakhian. Though several House resolutions have been made, the U. S. legislature has refused to

acknowledge it as well, presumably for fearing the loss of Turkey as a NATO ally. The main objective of Kassakhian's

See 'GENOCIDE' on p. 6

SUMMER JOBS...GET PAID EXPERIENCE

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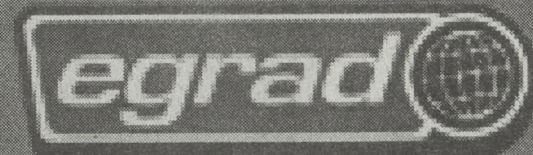
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'Book City' continued from page 4 'Genocide' continued from page 5

posters from exotic places around the world. Some of the second-floor titles include books on water sports, calligraphy, gambling and "How to win at Pac-Man."

The cinema section is Book City's most extensive. Siegel said that Book City has more movie books than any store.

Michael Walsh, a store associate, said many celebrities have come to Book City over the years.

"Oh yea, we've had them all," he said. "Michael Jackson, Michael Lerner, Charles Bukowski and even Dan Aykroyd."

Walsh said that movie producers have used the store's books to do research for their movies. He said, "[Steven] Spielberg himself came in here and picked out some books." Walsh said sometimes producers send runners or ask for him to help with the book selections.

Store owners don't know how long Book City will remain open. At its peak, it had more than 140,000 titles. Customers are taking advantage of the sales: one made a purchase for more than \$600.

Book City is located at 6627 Hollywood Blvd. The store is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

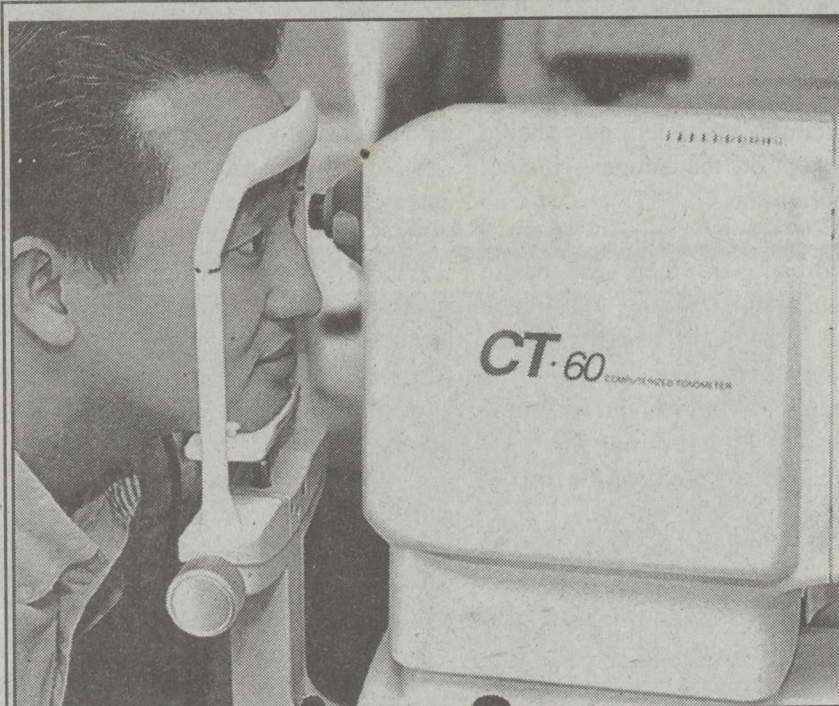
organization is to get the U.S. government to acknowledge the genocide and, in turn, get the Turkish government to offer "justice, reaffirmation and reparation."

"We want reaffirmation, not recognition," he said, because "there is no point to struggle for the recognition of something that is already established as historical fact."

"The current Turkish government is just as responsible because of its campaign of denial," said Kassakhian. "Armenians are not the only historical victims of the Turkish government. Look at the Pontic Greeks, the Cypriots, the Orthodox Christian Assyrians and of course the Kurds." The ANCA also works for the cause of self-determination of the ethnically Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh within Azerbaijani borders as well as strengthening US-Armenian ties.

Those in attendance at the presentation had several observations. Valley's President Tyree Wieder asked the audience "who learned about the Armenian genocide in high school?" Other than those who attended Armenian schools, only four raised their hands. "How can we fail to leave out such large portions of history?" she said. She also reported that the LACCD board of trustees has passed a resolution to mark April 24 as a district-wide day of recognition of the Armenian genocide. April 24, 1915, was the day that the genocide began with the Ottoman government assembling over 300 of the highest ranking members of Armenian society and assassinating them.

"We as citizens have to be on our guard to make sure that something like this doesn't happen again," said Wieder.



STAR PHOTO/LAUREN RUDSER

Carlos is getting his eyes checked in the Lion's Club "Eyemobile" a part of Valley's Health Day. Glaucoma is caused when excess fluids build up in the eye, and is checked by measuring the speed and pressure of a burst of air bounced off the eye.

'Election' continued from page 1

the all of the faculty did their jobs and I want to see a fair election."

One of the complaints states that supporters of Kbulchyan were passing out flyers too close to the election ballots, a violation of section 7 of the election code. The code states, "no campaign materials may be worn within 50 feet of the polling place on the actual days of the election."

Sherri Rodriguez, associate dean of student services, said that she is not sure when the runoff results will be announced. Complaints will be reviewed by an election committee, which consists of three students and an advisor. Based on the complaints, the committee will either select who the next president will be or if there should be another election.

"We will form an election committee later this week to investigate all the complaints that were made about the elections," said Rodriguez.

While the president's office still has a vacancy for next semester, the results are in for the other positions on the ballot. Mayna Avetisyan will be vice president. Karapet Torissian is the new treasurer. Yolando Mitchell Brown will be Commissioner of Environmental Concerns. Tyrone Cain will be returning as Commissioner of

"I just want to see that democracy is being practiced here."

-Ellinore Cohen,
on having a fair election

Political Affairs along with Danielle Dejean as Commissioner of Athletics.

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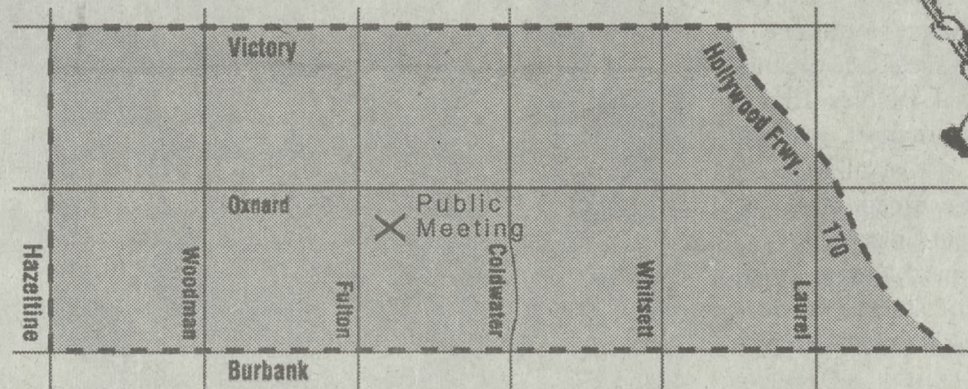
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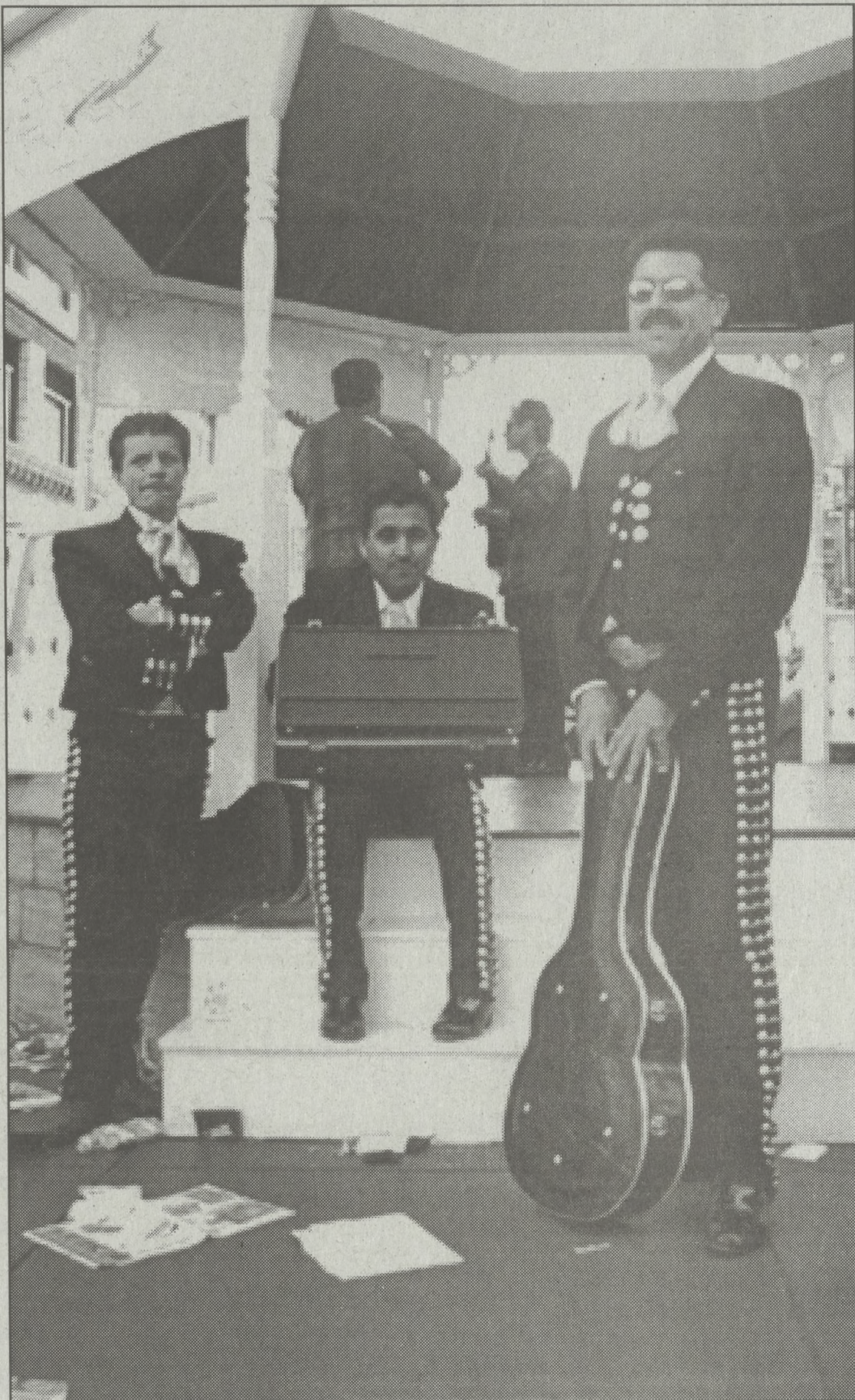
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FIESTA BROADWAY

LAYOUT BY JORGE GALLEGOS



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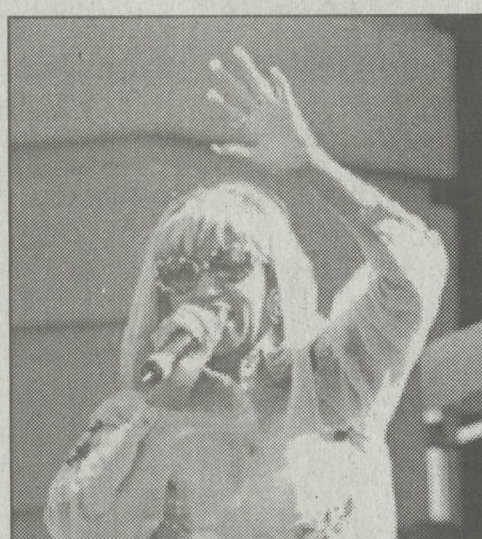
A mass of people stormed into the downtown Los Angeles Sunday April 28 to enjoy the 13th annual Fiesta Broadway - a day for appreciation of the Latin culture. More than 300,000 people enjoyed the day's festivities ranging from numerous stages which were proudly home to a full range of Latin musicians, games to test luck and strength, miles of food stands, and booths giving away free samples stretching as far as the eye could see. The streets were littered with the evidence of the day's festivities, making the diligent cleanup crew's job an uphill battle. As the sun began to set and kids started to come down from their sugar highs, the day's events raged on down 24 blocks of downtown, with some of the evening's highlights being performances from Gerardo "Rico Suave," and Cuban legend Celia Cruz.



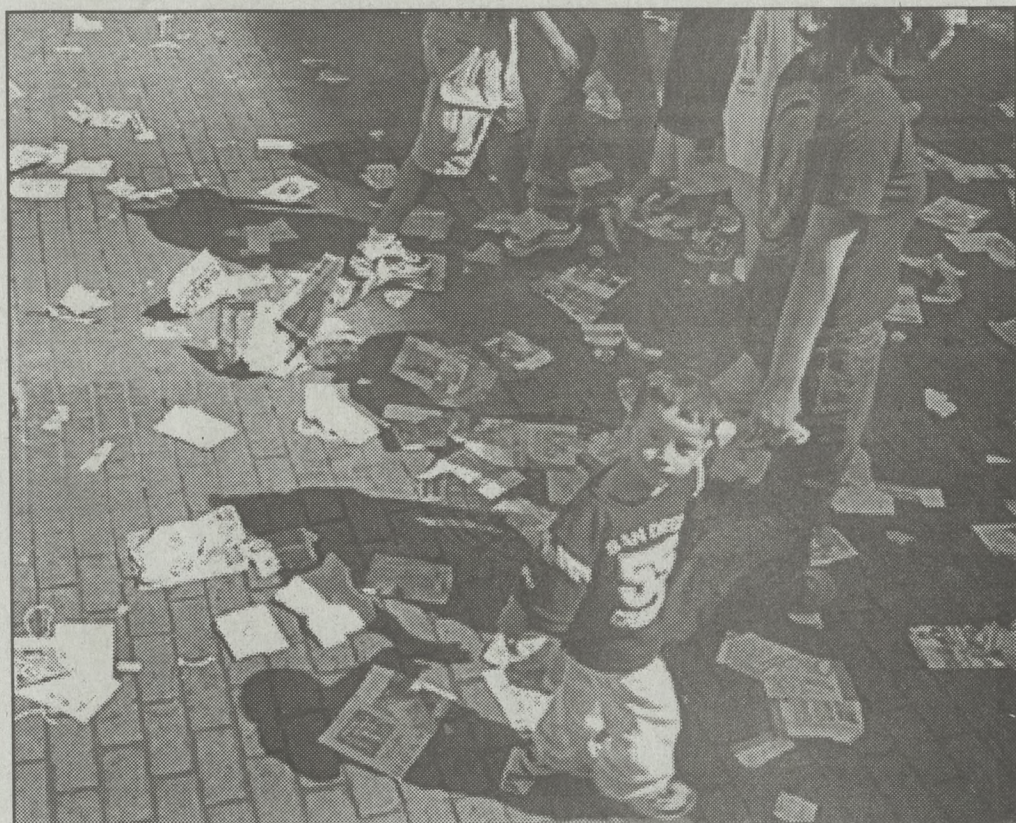
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Sports

8. MAY 1, 2002



STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

A run-scoring grounder goes through the glove of a Valley infielder allowing a Citrus runner to score.



STAR PHOTO/JORGE GALLEGOS

Dallas Burn defender Ryan Suarez tries to take the ball from Galaxy offensive star Cobi Jones. Jones has the most international games with the U.S. national team and was recruited to play his third consecutive World Cup.

Athlete of the Month:

Oscar Sanchez

BY RICARDO MIRANDA
STAR REPORTER

One name stands out in the Valley College Men's Track and Field Team, Oscar Sanchez. With the regular season now complete, the only races left are the most difficult ones. The Western State Conference playoffs began with the preliminaries on April 20 and the WSC Finals on April 27.

On both races Sanchez came in first place. On April 27 he won the 5,000 and 10,000-meter races. "He is an outstanding runner, it's been a pleasure coaching him," said head coach Francois Wolman said.

Sanchez is having a great season so far, winning first place in most of his races, which include the 5k, and 1500 meters. He is now in position to make a strong run to the State Finals. "Oscar is very focused he never says: 'Do I have a chance?' Instead he says, 'I'm winning this one.' He follows our program without arguing and is very self-disciplined; as a result in his first year he is the conference champion in both the 5 & 10 thousand-meter races. That, by the way, will make a great list for scholarship

offers," Wolman said.

Sanchez attended Eagle Rock High School and left his mark. Playing soccer at Eagle Rock is where he met Coaches G. Varela and Espino of the cross-country team, who saw him running the mile with his soccer team and told him he had what it takes to be a great runner.

"Those words are the reason why I am where I am

"I think I can teach other young people what I have learned and make a difference in their lives."

**-Oscar Sanchez,
on teaching physical
education**

today," Sanchez said.

In 10th grade he began running track and field. However, he had an interest for running a longer distance, so the following year he joined the cross-country team. During his senior year he became the only Eagle Rock runner who qualified for the state finals. His time of 15:23 in the three miles was

also a new record at Eagle Rock.

One would probably guess that Sanchez is a modest guy just by looking at him. "I am very modest and friendly with everyone," he said.

Sanchez has been running only for a few years, yet he has more accomplishments than some people who have been running their entire lives.

"My family has been very supportive and they want me to succeed in running," he said. "I like running for one simple reason, winning. Now that I can combine running and winning, it's a great feeling."

He plans on continuing with his education at Oregon State. "Steve Prefontaine went there and he is my role model," he said. "They also always have one of the best teams around."

Sanchez is majoring in physical education. "I think I can teach other young people what I have learned and make a difference in their lives," he said.

He said that it is rare for him to have spare time between races, school, and his job. When he does have spare times he likes dancing and going out



STAR PHOTO/LAUREN RUDSER

Oscar Sanchez looks forward to his future as a world-class long distance runner.

with his friends. He said, "I love dancing and that's what I usually do on weekends when I have some time." He also tries to spend as much time as possible with his family.

"I am confident I will win conference and qualify to state. In state I just want to achieve my personal goals because just by racing at state makes me one of the best runners in California," he

said.

Oscar is currently ranked sixth in the state of California and second in Southern California. But without a doubt all eyes will be set on him at the state finals in



STAR PHOTO/JORGE GALLEGOS

A Cuesta player is tagged out by Valley's Angela Nunez in the final game of the season.

Sports Schedule

BASEBALL

May TBA, Regional Playoffs

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

May 5-6 - Southern California Regionals, TBA

May 12-13 - Cal. Championship, TBA

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

May 2-4, California State Championships - All Day

TRACK & FIELD

May 11, Southern California Finals, TBA

May 17-18, State Finals, TBA